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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken with added momentum to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Actions will be taken to ensure the speedy recovery of businesses from the impact of COVID-19.
4. Emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

State Peace Talks Team continues second-day meeting with LDU delegation



The second-day meeting between the State Peace Talks Team and the Lahu Democratic Union-LDU is in progress in Nay Pyi Taw on 9 July 2022.

THE State Peace Talks Team met representatives from the Lahu Democratic Union-LDU at the meeting room of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Member of the State Administration Council and Union Minister at the Office of the Union Government (1) Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peace-

making Negotiation Committee, Leader of the Peace Talks Team Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Team Members: Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, also the member of the State Administration Council, Lt-Gen Min Naung, the Secretary of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee, LDU General Secretary Kyar Solomon, Joint Secretary (2) Kyar Ya Kok, and Member of the Central

Executive Committee Kyar Phu attended the meeting.

During the meeting, NSPNC member Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein pointed out the findings of the NSPNC and the details of the agreements included in Part I, II and III of the Union Accord and Table 2 from Part III to be discussed.

Afterwards, both parties discussed peace and development

issues and signed the agreements reached in the three-day meeting.

Then, LDU General Secretary Kyar Solomon and State Peace Talks Team Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae made concluding remarks and presented the books of the Diamond Jubilee Union Day published by the Ministry of Information, Myanmar Encyclopaedia volume 1 and gifts.—MNA

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There are 8 colors to choose from, including a "Maroon Color Mask" specially designed for monks.

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Only working in unison can benefit all

If you wish for the country to be developed and prosperous, all of the country's resources – financial, natural and human – have to be used together for the equal development of all races.

If the Bamar does what it wants, if the Kachin does what it wants, if the Shan, Kachin and Chin do not all cooperate, there will be no benefits for anyone. Only when you try working in unison will you know its benefits.

(Excerpt from the speech made by Bogyoke Aung San at the Panglong Dinner on 11 February, 1947)



Outstanding students return after Thai and Singaporean tours

UNDER the guidance of the Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister, the highest-scoring students for the matric exam 2022 who visited Thailand and Singapore from 4 to 8 July arrived back in Yangon and were welcomed by officials from the Ministry of Education and their parents at the Yangon International Airport on 8 July and brought them home to their families yesterday.

The trip was designed to enable students to gain domestic and international experiences and cultivate patriotism at the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area from 27 June to 1 July, in Thailand from 4 to 6 July, and in Singapore from 6 July to 8 July. — MNA



The highest-scoring students for the matric exam 2022 arrive back in Yangon on 8 July.

MMPO provides scholarships, school supplies to members' children

MYANMAR Motion Picture Organization and donors provided school uniforms, school supplies, and scholarships to 134 children whose parents are members of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization. The ceremony was

held at the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization on Wingaba Road in Bahan Township, Yangon, on 8 July.

First, MMPO patron U Aung Lwin and chairman U Kyi Soe Htun gave opening speeches.

Then, they received a donation of K1 million from the Ministry of Information through U Thein Naing, an advisor to the film development division of the Department of Information and Public Relation.

K15,000 scholarship, a school uniform, two dozen of books, pencils, sharpeners, erasers, water bottles and umbrellas are distributed to 134 students each by well-wishers, actors and actresses, who are members of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization.

From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic to date, the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization and well-wishers have donated foodstuffs nine times for the convenience of their members.

MMPO members and artists representing ten film strata attended the ceremony. — MNA



The ceremony to provide school supplies to MMPO members' children is in progress on 8 July.

Announcement for opening reception centres to receive CDM staff, students and youths

THE State Administration Council has been striving for the all-round development of the country including economic, social, education and health sectors. In addition, security forces are performing their duties day and night so that the entire mass of national people in various regions across the Union should be able to lead their lives and earn their living in the peace of mind. The State Administration Council gives priority to achieving genuine and perpetual peace, building up the united strength of the national brethren.

In order to prevent the unnecessary loss of human resources, the State Administration Council has publicly invited the basic education staff who are absent from duty to resume their duties and those who take part in armed resistance under various names of groups, including PDFs, to return to the legal fold if they wish to, and is systematically receiving the returnees.

It is found that, due to the persuasion, instigation and coercion of CRPH and NUG terrorist groups, some CDM staff, students and youths went to the strongholds of some ethnic armed organizations and received training in arms, ammunition and explosives.

It is known that some of those who have completed the training no longer want to be involved in terrorist attacks and so they fled to the regions within and without the country and are working there for their living. When they see terrorist attacks with their own eyes, they cannot accept such terrible acts at all. On the other hand, they have come to believe in the government's five-point roadmap and its endeavour for durable peace. Moreover, they want to live peacefully in their hometowns again with their parents and relatives. Nevertheless, they cannot do so because of the coercion and intimidation by CRPH and NUG terrorist groups and their subordinates, it is learnt.

Therefore, the government is taking measures to be able to open reception centres in border areas for those who would like to return homes to their respective regions. Moreover, those wishing to return home can contact Tatmadaw units and police stations. It is guaranteed that they will be able to lead their daily lives peacefully.

Information Team
State Administration Council

I would seriously urge the entire nation to join hands with the Tatmadaw for the successful realization of democracy

OUR Three Main National Causes – non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty – is the most important task of the democratization process. As the task of safeguarding Our Three Main National Causes is the main duty of the Tatmadaw, all the sectors of the State duty have already been transferred to the Tatmadaw. So, I would seriously urge the entire nation to join hands with the Tatmadaw for the successful realization of democracy, while adhering to Our Three Main National Causes.

(Excerpt from the message sent by Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing on the occasion of 74th Anniversary Union Day which fell on 12 February 2021.)

MIFER Union Minister visits MIC-permitted businesses in Bago, Yangon

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Naing Oo visited the garment factory of the Panko Bago Co., Ltd, a foreign investment company operating with the permission of the Myanmar Investment Commission in Bago Township, Bago Region, on the afternoon of 8 July.

During the visit, the General Director of the Company, Mr Chae Sung Jong, and Director Mr Kyung Jung Kim discussed the possibility of expanding investment in the garment industry in the Bago Industrial Zone phase by phase. They explained the status of the completion of the first phase which is being carried out with 2,500 employees, the plans to complete the second phase by December 2022 and to continue the business with 5,000 employees, and the expansion of



MIFER Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo pays observation tours around the shoes factory.

the business by completing the rest of the phases by 2024 and to employ up to 12,000 employees. They also presented challenges and needs encountered in carrying out business activities.

The Union minister briefed on the plans to be supported by the Myanmar Investment Commission and the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations for further expansion.

He also provided advice and coordination on the promotion of employment opportunities and the upgrading of workers' skills and the welfare of the workers. Yesterday morning, the Un-

ion minister visited the Myanmar Pou Chen Co., Ltd's manufacturing industry of shoes and shoe parts under the CMP system, located in Thardukan Industrial Zone in Shwepyitha Township, Yangon Region. During the visit, officials of the company explained the factory's operation since its opening in 2015, exports of more than five million pairs of shoes every year; expansion of the factory with more than 7,000 workers, programmes for the welfare of factory workers, labour issues, difficulties encountered in importing raw materials and plans for the future. The Union minister discussed issues related to capacity building of individual workers and job creation, plans for further coordination on emerging issues, and he toured the factory's operations and the staff food and welfare activities. — MNA

Assistant Senior Auditors Fresher Course 2/2022 closed

THE closing ceremony of Fresher Course 2/2022 for Assistant Senior Auditors was held at 12:30 pm on 8 July at the Assembly Hall of the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union, Nay Pyi Taw.

At the ceremony, Prof Dr Kan Zaw, the Union Auditor-General, delivered an address that the training was designed to teach the auditors theoretically and practically to conduct audits proficiently; the auditors should try to meet professional competence and maintain a good relationship between auditors and auditees; to understand well leadership and followership; and, accordingly, the achievement of audit objectives is essential because

teamwork is crucial to auditing; it is important for auditors to comprehend and be compliant with the auditing and accounting standards, civil service personnel law, civil service personnel rules, financial rules, and auditors' ethics, as being the auditors who audit the public funds according to the motto of "Steering to improve Public Financial Management".

Therefore, he emphasized that the accomplished trainees should endeavour to be good civil servants who can perform their duties faithfully for the interests of the office and nation and continue learning for expertise in the professional field.

During the one-month face-to-face training, two from the



head office and one from the Union Territory, and 37 from the regions and states, totalling 40 trainees, attended.

The permanent secretary, the director-general (Audit Department), the deputy permanent secretary, the deputy

directors-general, responsible persons, trainers and accomplished trainees attended the ceremony. — MNA

16 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 9 July, total figure rises to 613,727

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 613,727 after 16 new cases were reported on 9 July 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 592,637 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at 19,434 without more casualties.—MNA

Union Sports Minister meets sports teams to compete in 11th ASEAN Para Games

UNION Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and Yangon Region cabinet ministers arrived at the Myanmar Paralympic Sports Federation in Dagon Myothit (North) Township at 8 am yesterday and met officials.

Vice-Chairman Colonel Myo Myint (Retired) of the Myanmar Paralympic Sports Federation explained the preparations for the 11th ASEAN Paralympic Games to be held in Indonesia from 30 July to 6 August.

The Union minister said that he has coordinated with Myanmar Airlines to provide athletes



with Myanmar Airlines charter flights.

It is planned to honour the athletes who have been honoured

by the country in the competition, he added. He said the federation

and the ministry need to work together for the success of the sport. After that, the Union minister and party inspected the sports equipment to be used in the competition and the regional chief minister provided K1.5 million to the Myanmar Paralympic Sports Federation. Next, the Union minister addressed the sports teams and watched the competitions of volleyball teams.

Afterwards, the Union minister and party arrived at Theinbyu Boxing Stadium in Mingala Taungnyunt Township and addressed coaches, referees and athletes from Myanmar Traditional Boxing Federation. —MNA

Bago Region Chief Minister meets oil millers for edible oil sector development



OILSEEDS such as peanuts, sorghum and cassava are essential for the production of surplus essential oil, which is essential for basic food security and sesame, and sunflowers are being expanded, said Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win.

Efforts are being made to plant more oilseeds and sunflowers next winter, the Chief Minister added.

He was speaking at a meeting with oil millers on the development of the edible oil sector in the Bago Region on the morning of 8

July at the Royal Han Thar Conference Hall of the Bago Region Government Office.

Next, the chief minister said that oil millers should make arrangements to grind oil mills at full capacity to be able to grind large quantities of oil crops from the region.

Then, the regional director of the Region Consumer Affairs Department explained the oil production and production in the region.

The regional minister for Economy further clarified the

arrangements for the supply of domestic oil and the efficiency of oil refineries.

Next, officials discussed electricity access in the Bago Region, registration of oil refineries, distribution of post-harvest technologies, strengthening the market for domestically produced edible oil, improvement of oil refineries and the development of scientific farming methods.

The regional level officials clarified the matter and the Chief Minister of the region coordinated. —MNA

Discussion on establishment of assessment centres to produce more assessors in garment industry held

A meeting was held at Kanong Hall in the Hlinethaya Industrial Zone of Yangon Region yesterday morning to discuss the establishment of Assessment Centres in the garment industry and the production of more Assessors. The meeting was attended by the Chairman of the National Skills Standards Authority (NSSA), Deputy Minister for Labour U Win Shein and officials from the Assessment and Certification Committee (ACC), chairpersons of industrial zones, garment manufacturers and managers, and department officials.

The National Skills Standards Au-

thority (NSSA) is focusing on human resource development and the production of skilled workers, with a target of 5,000 workers to do an assessment in the 2022-2023FY and the priority will be given to garment factory workers.

According to the business plan, six NSSA awareness seminars were held in the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory from October 2021 to March 2022, and the skills were assessed for 380 workers in the garment, electrical and brick industries, as well as the Maple Win Garment Factory and Government Technical College (Nay

Pyi Taw), were recognized as garment inspection and evaluation department.

From 2014 to date, NSSA has developed more than 650 Inspectors and Assessors in 81 professional positions 200 inspection centres were established and more than 17,500 skilled workers were recognized for 30 occupations.

There are nearly 40 NSSA-certified garment inspection centres in Yangon Region with over 5,300 NSSA-certified skilled workers and only 30 Inspectors and Assessors. The Deputy Minister said that a lot of inspectors need to be trained

and NSSA accreditation inspection centres need to be established in proportion to the number of skilled workers. He highlighted that entrepreneurs need to be interested in cooperating in the process of producing skilled workers for the development of Myanmar's garment sector.

Afterwards, a representative from the ACC and a representative of the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association discussed and asked questions, and the Deputy Minister coordinated the necessary matters. —MNA

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LOCAL BUSINESS

Export ban on Myanmar edible oil crops lifted following regular global palm oil export

EXPORTS of Myanmar's edible oil crops will resume as the world's top palm oil exporters return to normalcy, according to the Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce.

Last April, the world's top palm oil exporter Indonesia, which is one of the main oil suppliers to Myanmar, declared an export ban on cooking oil export to reduce the domestic shortage. Consequently, Myanmar temporarily suspended exports of oil crops (peanut and sesame) in order to have oil self-sufficiency.

At present, the top exporters restarted cooking oil exports. This being so, Myanmar's export ban on oil and oil crops is to be reversed. The export reference prices will be determined in line with the rate in international seaborne trade, according to a notification dated 5 July 2022 released by the Trade Department.

As a result of this, oil crops (peanuts and sesame seeds) are



Exports of oil crops and cooking oil are exempted from the export licence, yet starting from 1 August, traders need to seek an export licence for those export items, according to a notification of the Trade Department on 23 May.

to be allowed for export according to the rules and regulations.

On 30 June, Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee notified the traders of the export earnings for agricultural products including oil crops to

be paid in dollars.

Starting from 4 July, the financial transactions for the corn, beans and oil crops have been made in dollars at the border posts between Myanmar and China.

On 14 December 2021, the Central Bank of Myanmar released a notification that the use of Yuan or Kyat in the bilateral transaction was officially allowed in the border areas between Myanmar and China

to boost the bilateral cross-border trade, facilitate the trading and bilateral transaction, and increase the use of domestic currency, following the objectives of the ASEAN Financial Integration. After export earnings were earlier set to be paid in dollars instead of yuan, the official exchange rate against the US dollar was set at K1,850.

At present, the dollar was valued at over K2,000 in the unofficial FX market, indicating a large gap in the currency exchange rate. Therefore, we have to observe the impacts on the agricultural products from this action, traders said.

Moreover, exports of oil crops and cooking oil are exempted from the export licence, yet starting from 1 August, traders need to seek an export licence for those export items, according to a notification of the Trade Department on 23 May. — NN/GNLM

Yangon Agriculture Dept disseminates organic fertilizer utilizing methods

OVER 60,000 sowing acres with rice transplanting and direct seeding have been completed in Yangon Region. The regional Department of Agriculture has been offering fertilizer at reference rates in respective townships to meet the needs of the farmers. It has disseminated the organic fertilizer utilizing methods to the farmers as well.

The department raised awareness of the organic fertilizer utilizing method which is a mixed-use of chemicals with organic fertilizer (1:3 ratio) before the monsoon paddy season to prevent yield loss of monsoon paddy. The awareness campaigns covered over 60,000 acres of monsoon paddy under model farms and on-farm trials.

"Prior to monsoon paddy season, awareness campaigns to use green leaf manure for soil nutrients are conducted. Additionally, effective fertilizer utilizing techniques with bokashi organic fertilizer and fish amino were also disseminated. Fertilizer treatment with mixed use of chemical and organic fertilizer in 1:3 ratio between plants and rows

of crops are also shared to the farmers," Daw Hla Kyi, deputy director of the Yangon Region Department of Agriculture.

Mixed-use of chemical and organic fertilizer can help reduce utilizing the chemical fertilizer and the cost of agricultural inputs for sustainable agriculture. Green, garden and animal manure including cow dung and chicken faeces, straw, grass, paddy husk, water hyacinth and vegetable waste are composted for three months and cost-saving natural fertilizer is made for the farmers. The department also demonstrated fish amino acid production to promote the growth of crops and leaves.

The department targets to cover 1.1 million acres of monsoon paddy across the Yangon Region. Techniques for the cost-saving natural fertilizer increasing beneficial microbial organisms and mushroom compost are distributed to the farmers. The model farms with the production capacity of 100 baskets per acre and seed farms are also implemented in the region. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

Mandalay Region Agriculture Dept targets over 1.3 mln acres of monsoon oil crops

THE Mandalay Region Agriculture Department will cover 1.3 million acres of monsoon oil crops in 11 districts of the Mandalay Region, said Daw Toe Toe Win, an officer of the department.

The cultivation of monsoon oil crops (peanuts, sesame and sunflower) commenced in early May. A total of 155,020 acres of peanut, 902,657 acres of sesame seed and 21,073 acres of

sunflower have been cultivated so far, totalling 1,078,747 acres.

"The main objective of oil crop plantation is for oil security in the region. The region has self-sufficiency as oil crop cultivation is increasingly carried out in the region. The regional department is also providing post-harvest techniques, growing methods and pedigree seeds of each crop in the respective financial year. Beyond

the peanut, sunflower, sesame and mustard are also planted as oil crops," she elaborated.

The department targets a total of 1,361,097 acres across 11 districts of the Mandalay Region; PyinOoLwin, Kyaukse, NyaungU, TadaU, Maha Aungmye, Meiktila, Myingyan, Yamethin, Thabeikkyin, Amrapura and Aungmyaythazan. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM



The department targets a total of 1,361,097 acres across 11 districts of the Mandalay Region.

ARTICLE



Freight forwarding business endeavouring to survive in difficult times

By Lin Oo

WE frequently hear the phrase “Oil price spike” in trading and market environments lately. The subject of oil price rally is often brought up in making a deal between sellers and buyers. Only low and medium-income people are battered by escalating commodity prices whatsoever. One of the contributing factors to the price rise is freight forwarding operation so the Global New Light of Myanmar approached the sources to write an article.

Freight forwarding business and cargo trucks

Domestic freight forwarding businesses offer two services; across the city and highway. The industry faced an oil price surge of three folds. At the moment, the diesel price rocketed to K2,500 per litre from K700-800 per litre.

Two-wheeled carts were seen on Yangon roads for delivering loads of cargo in 1970, mostly on Yangon Strand Road and at Yangon Port. Trishaw without engine power is still used to transport a small number of goods nowadays.

Six-wheeled small trucks, including Suzuki pick-up trucks (ten feet, 12 feet and 14 feet in length) are running for a short-haul transport service in Yangon

city. Container handling for imports and exports at industrial zones and shipping terminals is seen. The different types of heavy trucks (10, 12, 14, 18 and 22-wheeled trucks) are used for highway freight transport services.

There are over 300 highway truck stations in the commercial hub, Yangon city where international shipping ports and industrial zones are located, according to the Myanmar Highway Freight Transport Services Association.

Load capacity for heavy trucks is estimated at 32-38 tonnes. The gross vehicle weight of a two-axle truck (six-wheel truck) is allowed up to 20 tonnes (6,000 visses). The authorities do not give the go-ahead to overloading. The load capacity varies on vehicle weight and types of vehicles, said U Nge Lay, a truck owner.

It is a decade until the maximum load capacity is determined per truck depending on the number of axles to keep highway roads in good condition.

The price of a taxi (Toyota Probox) stood under K20 million four years ago. At present, the price hit around K30 million.

The automobile market sees an upward tick in truck prices



as well. The 12-wheeled trucks are mostly witnessed on highway roads. Six-wheeled trucks with a gross vehicle weight of 20 tonnes are running the highway service (200 miles). The brand-new trucks are barely seen in the market. Those old vehicles were priced at K20 million before. The car value does not decrease despite the old model, said U Nge Lay.

The six-wheeled trucks under the 2000 model are worth K20-25 million, while those vehicles above the 2000 model are valued at K35 million. The market price of Fuso/Nissan brand

six-wheeled trucks made in Japan is estimated at K50 million.

The old model ten-wheeled truck was valued at K15 million in late 2010, whereas it rose to K30 million this year.

The brand-new 12-wheeled trucks are rarely witnessed. The market price of the 12-wheeled trucks is K50-70 million. The brand new 10-wheeled trucks made in Japan are worth K100 million.

The price of left-handed container European trucks increased from K45 million to K65 million. The Japanese trucks are valued at up to K100 million.

Chinese trucks are worth K35 million. The locally produced trucks under the semi-knocked down system are worth only K10 million. The majority of the trucks are foreign used cars.

Transport rate

A freight rate of potatoes increased from K95 to K110 per viss for the Aungban-Yangon route. The transport rates stand at K95 per viss from Mandalay to Yangon, K110 per viss of onion from Moywa to Yangon and K10 per viss for the Yangon-Bago distance (50 miles).

SEE PAGE-10

No passing allowed through offshore blocks M-9 and M-3 during the course of work

AN announcement has been made saying that no passing will be allowed through offshore blocks M-9 and M-3 during the course of work.

PTTEP International Limited, a joint venture partner in the oil and gas exploration of the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, will conduct the geotechnical site survey-GTI and associated studies in the offshore blocks from 5 to 31 July.

In order to avoid delays during the operation, a Notice to Mariners has been issued, prohibiting the passing or anchoring of any type of boat and vessel within four kilometres of the offshore blocks, it is reported. — TWA/GNLM



An undated photo shows an offshore oil rig vessel.

Chilli pepper growers and traders make more profit than in previous years

CHILLI pepper production is higher this year than last year and the price has also doubled. New Moe Htaung chilli pepper grown in the Thaedaw area entered the Yangon pepper market in June 2022 at a wholesale price of K8,000 per viss, and a new Dutch chilli pepper variety from the Thaedaw area entered the market at a wholesale price of K8,500 per viss on 9 July.

This year the yield was higher due to the good weather, said chilli pepper growers in Khayay-su village in the Thaedaw-Wundwin region.

The price of chilli pepper is likely to rise slightly in the Yangon pepper market on 11 July. Although new Moe Htaung chilli pepper produced from Kyaukse and Pyawbwe are probably about to enter the Yangon market later this month, prices have not dropped significantly and could be as high as Thaedaw chilli pepper, according to chilli pepper trader Ko Hla Han.

Chilli pepper growers and traders who store chilli peppers in refrigerators are likely to make more profit this year than in previous years. — TWA/GNLM

MNA to resume flights to ROK from 22 July



An MNA flight attendant is pictured serving air passengers.

MYANMAR National Airlines MNA will resume flights to the Republic of Korea (Yangon-Incheon-Yangon) from 22 July.

The Airline has announced its resumption of flights to the ROK, setting a schedule for the first flight to Incheon, which will depart from the Yangon International Airport at 11:30 am. The MNA Yangon-Incheon flights will regularly fly on Friday, every two weeks, it is reported.

The Airline is currently flying to Singapore and Bang-

kok daily and to Kuala Lumpur every Tuesday. Myanmar National Airlines was established in 1948 as the state-owned transport company under the name UBA. In 1989, the airline was renamed Myanmar Airways and operated 21 flights. In 2014, Myanmar National Airlines was renamed and operated domestic and international flights. Currently, Myanmar National Airlines flies to 28 cities in the country and is one of the busiest domestic airlines. — TWA/GNLM

800 YBS drivers receive booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine

THE YRTC has announced that 800 YBS drivers operating in Yangon have been vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus within two days.

Vaccination was carried out at Yangon Region Private Transport Supervision Committee (YRTC) Office on Laydaunkan Road, Tamway Township, Yangon Region on 6 and 7 July under the guidance of the Yangon Regional Government in collaboration with the Region Public Health Department and the township administration.

Employees and family members of bus companies received the booster doses.

At present, under the management of YRTC in Yangon, 319

YBS bus lines are operating daily with (3194) vehicles for the convenience of 1,133,540 passengers.

From 13 to 16 October 2021, over 3,000 drivers and company employees from 19 YBS bus companies and four public corporations who have not yet been inoculated against COVID-19 received the vaccines for the first time.

From 10 to 13 November 2021, more than 3,000 YBS drivers and company employees were vaccinated against COVID-19 for the second time.

Currently, drivers of YBS bus lines operating in the Yangon Region, employers and their families are being vaccinated with the COVID-19 booster doses. To



YBS drivers get booster doses at the YRTC office on 6 July 2022.

date, more than 2,500 people have been vaccinated with COVID-19

booster doses, according to the Yangon Region Private Transport

Regulatory Commission (YRTC). — TWA/GNLM

OPINION BOOKRACK

ARTICLE

Analyze potency of Covid-19 vaccines with farsightedness

THE dreadful pandemic coronavirus started its outbreak in late 2019, spreading to all parts of the global countries. The waves of the pandemic unmercifully attacked the global peoples, leaving a large number of people dead.

If a film were screened to cover the outbreak of the pandemic, it would show the struggle of the global peoples in suffering from the disease for their survival. They urgently invented the vaccines to counterattack the pandemic.

Researchers compiled data from 185 countries from 8 December 2020 to 8 December 2021 that in the first year of the disease, various kinds of vaccines saved some 20 million global peoples. If the vaccines were not invented, more than 30.4 million global people may face death.

Indeed, everybody needs to analyze the actual potency of vaccines to battle the pandemic. The infection rate of Covid-19 is gradually declining day by day but no one can predict its actual trend when the pandemic can be annihilated. Hence, it is necessary to create and invent better and better vaccines with high potency to fight against the pandemic till the final days.

According to global history, the planet Earth had faced the worse pandemics ten times. But, the development of medical science in successive eras reduced the death and injuries of pandemic victims. Various waves of the pandemic pushed the globe into a state of emergency several times. Till today, no one can predict the possibility of more outbreaks of such a pandemic whether it continues or not.

Thanks to the development of medical science, scientists and medical experts produce various kinds of vaccines to make counterattack the pandemic. So also, Myanmar produces Myancopharm vaccines in cooperation with Chinese scientists. Despite facing challenges on purchase of vaccines from various countries, Myanmar could overcome difficulties in solving the problems of vaccines when it was able to produce own Covid-19 vaccine at home.

Indeed, everybody needs to analyze the actual potency of vaccines to battle the pandemic. The infection rate of Covid-19 is gradually declining day by day but no one can predict its actual trend when the pandemic can be annihilated. Hence, it is necessary to create and invent better and better vaccines with high potency to fight against the pandemic till the final days.

The vaccines could protect the victims of the Covid-19 pandemic, accounting for 90 per cent. Today's vaccines used across the world cannot totally annihilate the pandemic from the globe but these are still effective and potent to lessen the number of patients suffering from the impacts of diseases. The vaccines against Covid-19 are contributing to the regular running of the health system, easing the burdens of healthcare services and hospitals. However, all scientists and medical experts regardless of the country need to analyze the potency of Covid-19 vaccines with farsightedness to improve them if necessary.

Waso, the Month of Ordination Festival

By Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja, Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

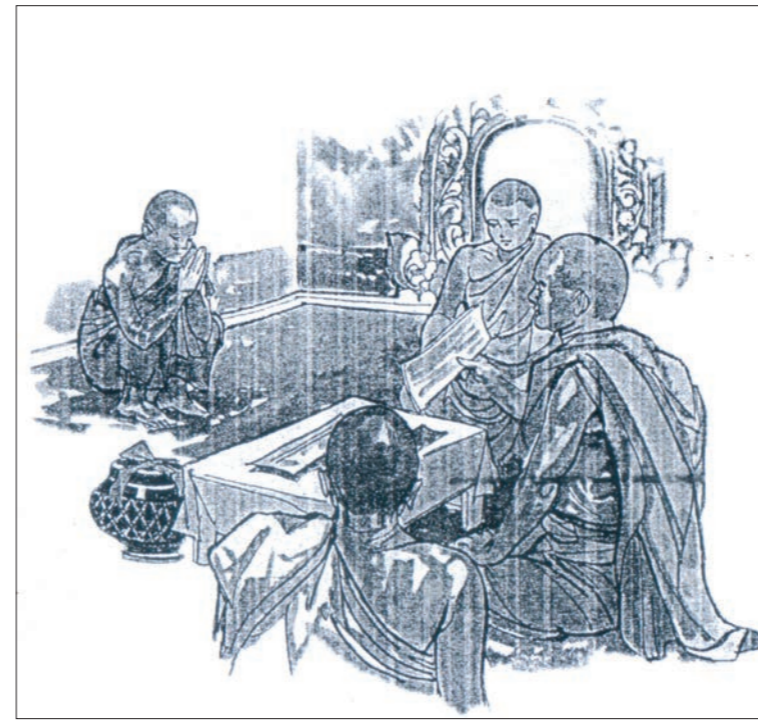
WASO, the fourth month of the Myanmar lunar calendar approximates July. It is the first of the three heavily rainy months... Waso, Wagaung, and Tawthalin, i.e., July, August and September respectively. The astrological name of Waso is Kataka (Cancer) and its symbol is the crab. This month Myat Lay flower (fragrant Jasminum grandiflorum) blooms, and so Myanmar people regard it as the flower of this month. In the year ME 1355, there were two Waso months - first Waso and second Waso, as a month was intercalated after Waso. So, this type of year is called Wa-htat year i.e., two-Waso year.

In the early lithic inscriptions of ancient Bagan, this month was called "Malweita" or "Nweita" or "Nweta", all of which mean "the

month for measuring land". It is in this month that wet cultivation is done in full swing, and so the farmers have to measure the extent of the lands to till. Hence the land-measuring month is an appropriate name. As Theravada Buddhism flourished and its influence permeated the daily life of the Myanmar people, this month acquired a new name of religious importance "Waso". It is believed that in the time of King Anawrahta (AD 1044-1077) when the Theravada Buddhist monks promoted Pariyatti Sasana, the name "Waso" for this month came into common use. The word "Waso" is a compound of two words "wa" and "so". "Wa" is derived from Pali word "wasa" meaning "to recite" "to say" or "to tell". "So" is a Myanmar word which also means "to say" or "to tell". On the first waning day of

this month, Buddhist monks say to the Lord Buddha (take a vow in front of the Buddha statue) that they will stay in their residing monastery during the three months of the rainy season.

The history of observing the Waso rite goes back to the lifetime of the Lord Buddha. At first, there was no religious restriction of the movement of monks. They freely went about throughout the year. They travelled in all seasons. Greengrass, plants, cultivation and little insects were accidentally trodden upon by travelling monks, thereby damaging or destroying them. When the Lord Buddha heard of public complaint of such unintentional harm he forbade the monks to go out of their residing monasteries for overnight travel during the three months of cultivating season. For the convenience of



the monks, the Lord Buddha prescribed two alternative periods of Wa or Lent, namely Purima Wa and Pyitsima Wa. Purima Wa or first Wa is the period of Lent which begins on the first waning

day of Waso month and ends on the day of the completion of three solid months which is the full moon day of Thadingyut (October). Pyitsima Wa or second Wa begins on the first waning day of Wagaung month (August) and ends on the day of the completion of three solid months which is the full moon day of Tazaungmon (November). Depending upon their conditions monks may choose either of these two was.

Either in the evening or at night of the first waning day of Waso all monks of the same monastery are gathered in the assembly hall facing the shrine room of Buddha images. The monastery and the shrine room are artistically decorated with flowers, candles, festoons and various offertories, highlighting the Waso occasion. Firstly, they pay homage to the Lord Buddha.

Then the head monk of the monastery explains to the monks the boundaries of the monastery and its compound within which they are obliged to stay during Lent. Starting with the most senior monk (seniority is counted not in terms of age but in terms of wasa or ordained years), every monk by turn recites the following formula of the Wa vow:

Imasmim vihare imam temasam vassam upemi
ဣမသံဃိဝိဟာရ ဣမံဝေဓာသံ ဝသပဉ္စေမိ

which means "I shall stay in this monastery during the three months of rainy season". Every time each monk recites this vow either once or twice or thrice, the rest of the monks utter in chorus word of appreciation in Pali "Sadu" (well-done) three times. Owing to the unavoidable circumstances if a monk has to

travel and thus has to stay away from the monastery during Lent, he can make a formal request for a dispensation from the duties of Lent. This kind of request is called "wa pan" request for a leave of absence from the monastery during Lent. But leave of absence must not exceed more than seven days. If he fails to make this request and stays away overnight from the monastery he commits a breach of the Wa vow and thereby he suffers "wa kyo". Wa kyo means losing the priestly character in consequence of a breach of a monastic vow as he has not recited the formula of permission. But as the monks strictly observe priestly disciplines there is hardly any case of Wa kyo.

SEE PAGE-10 >>



Book Title - Oh! What is this, Essay? (A compilation of Essays)
Author - Min Chan Mon
Publishing House - Min and May
Publication Date - July 2020 (1st Edition)
Price - K3,500

Oh! What is this, Essay? (A compilation of Essays)

PASSIONATE poet Saya Min Chan Mon would like to introduce Essay lovers to a piece of writing in which a fictional paper is portrayed balancing between an article and a short story. The book entitled "Oh! What's this, Essay?" will guide the readers who are lost in the literary hub as a compass. The author shares this analogy with the en-

thusiastic readers to enlighten the glimpse of essay writings. The author unveils all of his research finding to develop essay writing which is harder than it seems to be, describing with a quote "shallow in appearance but deep, easy in appearance but hard". He also explained about two types of Essays; formal and in-

formal essays depending on the idea, structure, writing style and personal opinion. Additionally, he added Saya Zawgyi's classification essay, highlighting fictional essays and research essays. This book contains 21 pieces of writing, including a preamble to essays, me and my beloved essay, what is this, Essay?

Essays and other writing styles, types of Essays, an essay entitled Let's put a bell on cat's collar and fictional thesis, Essay writers' conversation and brainstorming ideas, writing for Finding moon's shadow and breeze and its five common neighbourhood characteristics, essays on flexible and rigid pavements, Dark and mesmerizing mountain ranges, opinion writings and travel stories, selections of essays and poems by some poets, dream of essay writer in his youth, Essay and related literary works, reading essays with your heart, fictional papers and dialogue, open letters 100, power supply for urban high-rise building (10th floor) and problem and birth of a good essay.

The most important thing in essay learning is completing the work before ideas dry out. He compared literary art with watercolour in simile. Nonetheless, it takes a certain time to spur an idea related to a topic. He uses metaphor as an embryonic development until birth for that.



Book Title - Whether it is Ferguson or Pope (Collection of fictional papers)
Author - Maung Khaing Latt
Publishing House - Duwun
Publication Date - March 2022 (1st Edition)
Price - K2,500

Whether it is Ferguson or Pope... (Collection of fictional papers)

MYANMAR prominent author Dagon Taya defined literature as a piece of writing that can make the readers visualize the life story as fiction. It is also described as chicken soup for the soul as a good book can comfort our minds and make the readers feel satisfied. It also motivates the readers to step up in life. This week's pick will fully engage in mind and im-

agination through inner peace quotes and inspiring messages. The book compiles 15 selected fictional papers by the author Maung Khaing Latt. The readers will enjoy multiple points of view. The book title "Whether it is Ferguson or Pope" showed the power of mind control and self-esteem of the world's top influential people. They have the ability to

cope with problems with positive attitudes. He concluded the book with the sentence "What the most difficult problem in life is building self-esteem". The disadvantages of not reading arise in some countries. He illustrated the cons of limited and biased viewpoints in the book. He pointed out that the world becomes a disastrous and

threatening place for the good community. Japanese people spend the most hours reading and they are highly valued for self-responsibility and accountability. The subway companies apologized to the people after the trains departed 20 seconds early. The Union Minister also resigned from his position because of the wrong move. In Myanmar, my acquaintance's Facebook post stating ahem... ahem... drew the attention of social media users and made 300 irresponsible comments, the author explained.

People are that stupid? Some people are less valued than sparrows, the author mentioned that in the writing of the sparrow's funeral. The readers can see different points of view on raising caged animals. It is not worth saying that the appreciation of the caged animals cannot be based on love, but in reality, it is making yourself happy and attempting to satisfy your ego's desire.

ARTICLE

Waso, the Month of Ordination Festival

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During Lent, monks devote themselves full-time to the observance of religious practice. Especially in the Pariyatti monasteries teaching and learning of Tipitakas and all Buddhist scriptures and literatures are intensively carried out by the teacher and student monks, preparing for the religious examinations held in the month of Nayon (June). At the meditation centres, the instructor monks teach their pupils the correct ways of meditation. Material needs of the teacher and student monks are supplied by lay devotees and the public.

The full moon day of Waso is one of the important days in the Buddhist history because it was on this day that four great events of the Lord Buddha's life took place. Firstly it was on the full moon day of Waso Thursday, that Prince Siddhartha (the Buddha-to-be) was conceived in the womb of Queen Maha Maya, the Chief Queen of King Suddhodana of Kapilavatsu. Secondly, it was on the full moon day of Waso, Mon-

day that Prince Siddhartha at the age of 29 after seeing four Omens, renounced his mundane life and left his palace for the forest to become a recluse. Thirdly it was on the full moon day of Waso Saturday that the Lord Buddha gave his first sermon "Dhammacakya" to the five recluses namely Kondana, Vappa, Bhaddiya, Mahanam, and Assaji in the Deer Park Migadawunna. Fourthly it was on the full moon day of Waso that the Lord Buddha under the Mango tree in Sawutti showed his miracles to the heretics to subdue them. In Myanmar, the full moon day of Waso is marked "Dhammacakya Day" which is observed by holding group recitations of Dhammacakya at religious centres throughout the country.

The traditional festive event of Waso is ordination. The earliest mention of the ordination festival is found in the stone inscription at Bagan dated ME 595 (1213 AD). It described the ordination of the son. Another inscription which mentions the ordination event is that of the Innwa (Ava) period. It

was dated ME 900 (1538 AD). In Myanmar literature of Innwa and other periods, we find references to the ordination festival held in the month of Waso. In fact, there is no specific time or month fixed for ordination. Ordination can take place in any month of the year. But there are two special reasons for holding ordination on the full moon day of Waso. Firstly it was on the full moon day of Waso that one of the five recluses whom the Lord Buddha gave his first sermon named Shin Kondana became a monk. Secondly, those who have passed religious examinations in the previous month, Nayon are ready to be ordained in Waso so that they can pursue learning (Pariyatti) during Lent. The ordination festival in Waso is in sequence with the religious examination festival in Nayon.

The purpose of ordination is twofold-to recruit for Sangha the Priestly Order so as to promote and perpetuate Buddha Sasana from those who choose to remain a monk for life and to impart Buddhist education

and culture to those who stay in monkhood for a certain period. It is a religious requirement for every Buddhist male to become a novice or ordained monk. According to Buddhism the highest religious merit one can attain is by becoming oneself novice or being ordained a monk if one is a male or by making one's son or another's son novice or ordaining him a monk. By performing this religious work the performer becomes an "inheritor of Buddha Sasana". The performer receives from the community and honorific title of "Shin Taka" "Shin Ama" "Yahan Taka" "Yahan Ama" "Donor of Novitiation" "Donor of Ordination" "Donor of Ordination" which is prefixed to his or her name. At death his or her body is carried with two ceremonial gold umbrellas shading it as a token of honour to the deceased "inheritor of Buddha Sasana". Two historical shreds of evidence that support novitiation and ordination as a religious requirement for the Buddhists are the novitiation of Prince Rahula,

son of the Lord Buddha and the ordination of Prince Mahinda and Princess Sanghamitta, son and daughter of King Asoka. A year after the attainment of Buddhahood the Lord Buddha came to Kapilavatsu and resided at the Nigrodha Vihara monastery. One day while the Lord Buddha was at the Court of his father King Suddhodana, Rahula's mother Queen Yasodhara told her son that the Lord Buddha was his father and urged Rahula to ask for patrimony from his father. When the son did accordingly, the Lord Buddha kept silent. Rahula followed the Lord Buddha to the monastery, repeatedly asking for patrimony on the way. When they reached the Nigrodha Vihara the Lord Buddha told his disciple Shin Sariputtara to novitiate Rahula in the Order. Making Rahula a novice (Samenera) was the grant of patrimony by the Lord Buddha to his son because by becoming a probationer for the priesthood, Rahula was inheriting Buddha Sasana from his father.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

Freight forwarding business . . .

FROM PAGE-6

Sometimes, we are primarily running a one-way transport service, said a truck owner in Bago.

For the Pathein-Yangon route, truckers generate higher income for coal and other iron scrap metal compared to rice shipment. The transport rate is K900-1,000 per 30-viss bag, K800 per cement bag and K1,000-1,200 per bag of onion/potato, said U Htaw, a six-wheeled truck owner.

The freight forwarding charges are K750 per 30-viss

bag, K600-650 per sugar bag and K700-750 per onion bag for the Yangon-Hinthada trip, according to highway truck stations.

Fuel consumption

The price of diesel that trucks consume was only K700 per litre and then, jumped to K2,700 per litre in maximum this month. The price has slid to K2,600 per litre in recent days.

The six-wheeled truck consumes 20 gallons (a gallon is estimated at 4.5 litres) for the Yangon-Pathein return trip (230

miles). The fuel spike elevated the cost to K80,000 more for that trip, said U Ko Oo, a Yangon-Pathein cargo truck operator.

Fuel price and freight cost

The fuel price surged to a three-fold rate recently. Nevertheless, freight costs did not soar. It is not highly correlated between fuel price and freight cost. Highway truck service and city truck service charges increase a bit yet they cannot cover the fuel price.

The volume of the goods to be delivered is usually high in the rainy season. If the number of trucks declines when there is a large number of goods, freight cost rises accordingly. Otherwise, rates decrease when carrying capacity is higher than shipper demand as there are more trucks available than loads, as per the freight forwarding industry.

Truck owner and labour wages

The general costs including driver wages of K80,000, labour wages of K40,000 for assistants and food expenses of K10,000 are estimated at K200,000 for an 800-mile long Yangon-Mandalay trip. Truck owners barely make profits, they stressed.

For the Yangon-Pathein return trip, the general cost totals K80,000 and the truck owners earn a profit of only K90,000.

The income of truck owners is pretty low. However, they cannot run a business other than that. Additionally, they put high capital. They cannot help running the trucks to cope with

the earnings of their workers and generate some profits for them in the difficult times, said owners.

Challenges of contract logistic companies

The contract logistics companies with sales companies and factories, providing freight forwarding services across the country, have to bear high rental prices when the fuel prices climb.

Nonetheless, they cannot raise the freight rate due to the contract. They can discuss the rates only when the new contract is signed. As a result of this, the fuel price rise negatively affected the logistics sector and the profits significantly dropped, said U Nay, the director of the nationwide freight forwarder.

Unexpected loss

Last but not least, the truck operators also face the consequences of vehicle malfunctions and maintenance costs despite the low profitability.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Over 100 movie theatres reopen in Shanghai

OVER 100 movie theatres in Shanghai resumed operation on Friday after about four months of epidemic-led closure.

According to a statement released by the film bureau of Shanghai, movie theatres are currently allowed to receive an audience at a 50 percent capacity at most, and viewers shall not sit closely beside each other.

The city will also ensure daily health monitoring of cinema staff, rational scheduling of screenings, infection prevention and control in theatres, among other things, to ensure the safety of audiences, according to the bureau.

Several cinemas in Shanghai arranged early hour screenings on Friday. Before 12 am on Friday, some moviegoers were already seen lining up in front of a UME cinema in Xintiandi, a landmark entertainment area in Shanghai.—Xinhua

US fails getting social science right in fight with COVID-19: official

US scientists and public health officials have mostly nailed the medical response to the COVID-19 pandemic and continually adapted the safety guidelines and treatment plans accordingly, but often fail to communicate effectively about those shifts, reported CNBC on Thursday.

“We got the biological science right, but we didn’t get the social science right,” Ashish Jha, the White House’s COVID-19 response coordinator, was quoted as saying last week at the Aspen Ideas Festival in Aspen, Colorado.—Xinhua

COVID-19 infections rising in Czech Republic, 4th vaccination recommended



People enjoy drinks in the outdoor space of a restaurant in Prague, the Czech Republic, 11 May 2020. PHOTO: DANA KESNEROVA/XINHUA/FILE

THE Czech Republic has recorded 1,549 COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours, the highest daily count since the start of May, data from the country’s Health Ministry showed Friday. The daily number of infections in the Czech Republic started rising at the end of June. Last week, the country reported more than 1,000 daily

cases for five consecutive working days. The daily number of hospitalizations has also almost doubled in the past two weeks, from 134 on 24 June to 262 on 7 July. Authorities have said that the more contagious subvariants BA.4 and BA.5 of the Omicron virus are to blame for the rise in infections. Local media quoted the

Health Ministry as saying that the number of infections would keep rising for several more weeks, but hospitals and intensive care units would be able to cope.

The Czech Vaccinology Society has recommended a fourth COVID-19 vaccine dose for people over 60. It is also recommended for those over the age of 12 with a severe immunocompromising condition, and the health staff who work with such patients, as well as for those in social care facilities. “We recommend administering the second vaccine booster dose at least four months after the first booster dose,” the Society said on its website. The Czech Republic has recorded more than 3.9 million COVID-19 cases and over 40,300 deaths since the outbreak of the pandemic. Nearly 6.9 million people in the country, which has a population of about 10.5 million, have been fully vaccinated, according to data from the Health Ministry.—Xinhua



Newer Omicron subvariants account for over 70% new infections in US

THE newer and most contagious Omicron subvariants, known as BA.4 and BA.5, now made up over 70 per cent of COVID-19

A girl has her temperature measured at a COVID-19 vaccination site in Times Square, New York, the United States, on 22 June 2022. PHOTO BY MICHAEL NAGLE/XINHUA

infections in the United States, according to data released by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) this week.

The BA.5 subvariant accounted for 53.6 per cent of new infections in the latest week ending 2 July, while BA.4 accounted for 16.5 per cent of the new infections, CDC data showed.

BA.5 has become the domi-

nant variant in the United States.

Health experts said the newer variants are more contagious and may pose a severe threat to immune protection.

They stressed that current public health tools are still very effective against BA.4 and BA.5, including masking indoors, avoiding crowds and getting booster shots. —Xinhua

Colombia enters 5th wave of COVID-19 pandemic

COLOMBIA has entered the fifth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, so citizens should reinforce self-care measures and get vaccinated against the virus, Minister of Health and Social Protection Fernando Ruiz said Friday.

“Evidently we are in the fifth peak. It has been spreading in different cities, especially in urban areas ... the number of deaths from yesterday (Thurs-

day) indicates a relative stability compared to the previous week,” Ruiz said.

The official pointed out that people over 70 years old were most affected when taking into account last week’s death toll, while hospitalizations were up among unvaccinated young people.

“These two groups are highly sensitive. Young people,

because a significant group has not been vaccinated, and in older adults, the issue of the booster is extremely important,” he explained. Ruiz also stressed the need to accelerate testing to identify new cases in time, emphasizing that although the Omicron variant of the virus is dominant in the country and less lethal than others, it can still cause complications.—Xinhua



People queue on a bridge as they travel near a metro station on their way home before a curfew amid the COVID-19 pandemic in Medellin, Colombia, 31 March 2021. PHOTO: JOAQUIN SARMIENTO/AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

China's infrastructure investment accelerates amid policy support

IN the face of mounting uncertainties in the international landscape and domestic COVID-19 resurgences, China has positioned infrastructure investment as a policy priority to revive the economy while securing sustainable growth.

Official data showed that the country's investment in the infrastructure sector gained 6.7 per cent year on year during the first five months of this year.

Total planned investment

in newly started projects during the period increased by 23.3 per cent year on year, the National Bureau of Statistics said in a statement.

On top of the positive economic outlook, China has undertaken a flurry of pro-investment initiatives. The country has promised a moderately proactive approach to advance infrastructure investment in last year's Central Economic Work Conference as well as this

year's government work report, aligning with the major strategic deployment and the 14th Five-Year Plan. The country's renewed calls for infrastructure investment were reiterated at a recent State Council executive meeting, which decided to raise up to 300 billion yuan (about 44.71 billion US dollars) through financial bond issuance for the capital replenishment of major projects, among other measures.—Xinhua



Workers are seen at the construction site of Baogong Main Road, a key urban transportation project in Hefei, Anhui province, in April. **PHOTO: RUAN XUEFENG/FOR CHINA DAILY/XINHUA**

ECB urges banks to 'step up' climate risk management



Climate activists in Germany walk with a banner calling on the ECB to "stop funding climate killers now" to protest against bank investments in fossil fuels. **PHOTO: AFP/ARMANDO BABANI**

THE European Central Bank on Friday called on banks to improve their preparations for future environmental risks as it published the results of its first "climate stress test".

Banks in the eurozone "must urgently step up efforts to measure and manage climate risk", the ECB's supervisory chief, Andrea Enria, said in a statement.

Launched in January, the

stress test gauged the impact of different transition scenarios and "extreme weather events" on banks' business.

The exercise, in which 104 banks participated, showed that "around 60 per cent" did not have the necessary assessment frameworks and many "lack relevant data" to assess climate risks in their portfolio, the ECB said.

In the short term, 41 of the banks that provided projections faced around 70 billion euros (\$70.8 billion) in losses in a "disorderly" scenario, where the cost of carbon emissions rose quickly.

But the figure likely underestimated banks' exposure due to the "scarcity of data" and simplified modelling, the ECB said.

A more orderly transition led to lower losses for banks, the report concluded.—AFP

Pipeline uncertainty leaves Germany with energy jitters

THE Nord Stream pipeline, which supplies Germany with most of its Russian gas, will be shut down for routine maintenance from Monday — with fears rising that it may remain off for good.

Germany is already feeling the effects of the energy squeeze caused by the war in Ukraine, with many households and businesses turning down the thermostat or dimming the lights.

Economy Minister Robert Habeck has even made headlines for extolling the virtues of shorter, colder showers.

Now, nervousness abounds as the scheduled 10-day pause in deliveries via the vital Nord Stream pipeline threatens to make things even worse.

"No scenario can be ruled out," Habeck has warned.

Confronted with the risk that supplies may never return to previous levels, many businesses and local authorities have come up with contingency plans.

"It is possible that we will return to working from home, as we did during the pandemic — but this time to save energy in the national interest," Carsten Knobel, head of consumer chemicals group Henkel, told local media.

The VCI, a trade group representing the heavily gas-dependent German chemicals industry, has said it is preparing for "the worst-case scenario".— AFP

France sets aside up to 12.7 bln euros for EDF nationalization

THE French government has set aside 12.7 bln euros (\$12.9 billion) for the full nationalization of state-controlled electricity provider EDF as well as other investments in the energy sector, Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire said on Thursday.

The re-nationalization of EDF — announced by Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne on Wednesday — will see the state increase its holding from 84 per cent to 100 per cent.

Le Maire said 12.7 billion euros would cover this as well as "any other operations that could be necessary before the end of the year", hinting that other outlays were possible.

"It's an investment, not spending," Le Maire said of the re-nationalization which the government claims is necessary to secure full state control over the country's strategic nuclear industry.

The heavily debt-laden EDF

was part-privatized in 2005, but its shares were worth around 25 per cent of their launch price at the start of this week after years of losses and problems with building its new nuclear reactors.

Speaking at a press conference after a cabinet meeting, Le Maire also proposed new measures to help low-income families struggling with rising inflation that he said amounted to "around 20 billion euros."—AFP



Germany is heavily dependent upon Russian gas that is delivered via the Nord Stream pipeline. The Nord Stream 2 gas line landfall facility in Lubmin, north eastern Germany. **PHOTO: AFP/ODD ANDERSEN/FILE**

Brunei records 50.1% trade growth in February

BRUNEI saw a 50.1 per cent year-on-year growth in its trade to reach 2.25 billion Brunei dollars (1.61 billion US dollars) in February this year, official data showed Friday.

According to the Department of Economic Planning and Statistics under the Ministry of Finance and Economy, Brunei's exports increased by 54.8 per cent year-on-year to

1.45 billion Brunei dollars in February, due largely to a growth in mineral fuel exports.

Mineral fuels contributed most to February's total exports by accounting for 76.9 per cent with a value of 1.11 billion Brunei dollars, showed data.

Meanwhile, Brunei's imports rose by 42.4 per cent year-on-year to 804.1 million Brunei dollars.

The highest share of Brunei's exports in February went to Japan at 20.6 per cent, followed by Australia at 20.3 per cent and China at 18.2 per cent.

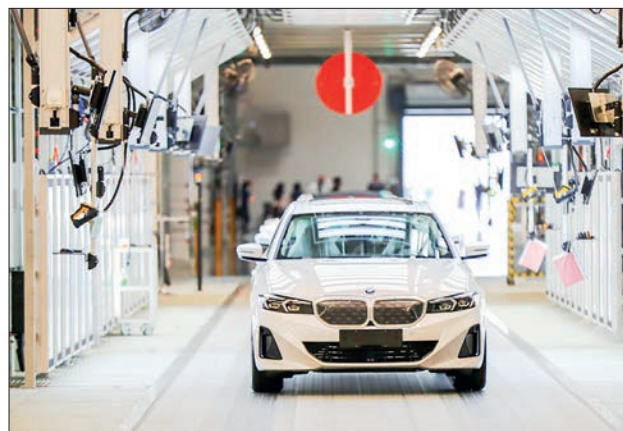
Of Brunei's imports in February, Kazakhstan accounted for 32.3 per cent, followed by Iraq with 17.4 per cent and Australia with 10.9 per cent. (1 Brunei dollar equals about 0.71 US dollar)—Xinhua



Oil and natural gas account for almost 90 per cent of Brunei's exports. Other exports include machinery and transport equipment (5 per cent) and chemicals (5 per cent). This photo shows the Brunei liquefied natural gas (LNG) processing plant located in Lumut, Brunei.

PHOTO: ROSLAN RAHMAN / AFP/FILE

BMW doubles BEV sales in H1 2022



BMW i3 electric cars are pictured at Plant Lydia of BMW Brilliance Automotive (BBA) in Tiexi District of Shenyang, northeast China's Liaoning Province, 23 June 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA/YANG QING

GERMAN carmaker BMW increased its sales of all-electric vehicles (BEVs) worldwide by 110.3 per cent year-on-year to almost 76,000 units in the first half (H1) of 2022, the company said on Friday. "Despite a very chal-

lenging environment, we were able to more than double our sales of fully-electric vehicles worldwide in the first half of the year," Pieter Nota, member of the Board of Management of BMW AG, said.

In China, the group's biggest single market, sales of all-electric BMW and MINI vehicles rose by 74.8 per cent, according to BMW.

In the first quarter of this year, two in three battery electric vehicles (BEVs) sold worldwide went to customers in China, making it the world's largest market for electric cars, according to auditing and consulting services company PwC Strategy& (Germany).

China also became the biggest single market for German carmakers and accounted for 39 per cent of the industry's total vehicle sales in the first quarter, according to consulting firm Ernst & Young (EY).—Xinhua

Indonesian farmers pay price of foot and mouth outbreak before Eid sacrifice

INDONESIAN farmer Okky Pratama usually sells dozens of cattle for Eid al-Adha, making his biggest earnings around the Islamic day of sacrifice, but this year he has sold just five.

A foot-and-mouth disease outbreak has ripped through two Indonesian provinces since April,

killing thousands of cows and infecting hundreds of thousands more, raising consumer fears before the 10 July festival.

Clusters of the highly infectious animal virus in East Java and Aceh provinces have rattled cattle farmers and their output during the most profitable time of year in a country

with the world's biggest Muslim population.

"I am pessimistic about the sales. Regular buyers unusually did not send me any purchase enquiries," said Pratama, whose cow farm in the mountainous Batu City is situated in the hardest-hit East Java province.—AFP

Greece-Bulgaria IGB natural gas pipeline inaugurated

THE Gas Interconnector Greece-Bulgaria (IGB) natural gas pipeline connecting the two neighbouring countries was inaugurated on Fri-

day in the city of Komotini in northern Greece, the Greek national news agency AMNA reported. The 182-km new pipeline connects Komotini with

Stara Zagora in Bulgaria and will link to the Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP), which transports natural gas from Azerbaijan to Europe via Greece.—AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SINAR SOLO VOY.NO. (2000N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR SOLO VOY.NO. (2000N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-7-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V IRIS MIKO VOY.NO. (20N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V IRIS MIKO VOY.NO. (20N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-7-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V CHATTANOOGA VOY.NO. (N048)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CHATTANOOGA VOY.NO. (N048)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-7-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S INTER ASIA LINES

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

India's bullet train project chief sacked over alleged corruption

AUTHORITIES have terminated the services of an official who was in charge of the Indian government's bullet train project over charges of corruption, officials said Friday.

According to an order issued by the National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL), chairman and managing director Satish Agnihotri's services were being terminated with immediate effect.

Projects Director Rajendra Prasad has been authorized to serve on the post for three months from the date of assumption of the charge or until further order.

"The competent authority has approved the termination of office of Satish Agnihotri. He has been directed to be relieved with immediate effect," reads

the letter of the railway board as quoted in the local media.

The termination order, however, did not cite specific allegations against Agnihotri.

Last month, a Lokpal (an anti-corruption authority) court directed India's premier investigating agency the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to investigate corruption charges against Agnihotri, including misappropriation and embezzlement of government funds and a quid pro quo deal with a private firm.

The NHSRCL is a joint venture between the federal government and participating states for implementing high-speed rail projects including the touted Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project, which is expected to be completed by 2028.—Xinhua



This photo taken in November 2016, shows India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe shaking hands in front of a Shinkansen train during their inspection of a bullet train manufacturing plant in Kobe, Hyogo prefecture. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Russian troops shell Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region

RUSSIAN troops pursued their "relentless" shelling of Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region on Saturday, as the United States promised new military aid to

Kyiv including powerful rocket launchers. Having endured long battles to capture cities in the neighbouring Luhansk region, Russia is now seeking to push

deeper into Donetsk to consolidate its hold over the entire Donbas region.

Air raid sirens sounded overnight throughout the country's east and south. Residents in the small town of Druzhkivka, south of the eastern Ukrainian industrial city of Kramatorsk, woke up to a suspected missile attack on Saturday which ripped apart a supermarket's shop front and left a massive crater in front of the store.

"The entire frontline is under relentless shelling," the head of the Donetsk military administration, Pavlo Kyrylenko, said in a Telegram message on Friday night.—AFP



An Ukrainian Military Forces serviceman, watches through spyglass in a dugout on the frontline with Russia-backed separatists near Gorlivka, Donetsk region on 23 January 2022. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Russia hopes 'more professional people' will lead UK

THE Kremlin said Thursday it hoped that "more professional people" would come to power in Britain after the BBC reported Boris Johnson will resign as Conservative party leader.

"We would like to hope that some day in Great Britain more professional people who can

make decisions through dialogue will come to power," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. "But at the moment there is little hope for that."

Relations between Moscow and London have been bad for years and virtually collapsed since President Vladimir Putin

sent troops to Ukraine on 24 February. Johnson's government has sanctioned dozens of wealthy, Kremlin-connected Russians and says their money is no longer welcome in Britain.

"He really does not like us. And we (do not like) him either," Peskov said of Johnson.—AFP

Sri Lanka leader flees as protesters storm home

SRI Lanka's beleaguered President Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled his official residence in Colombo Saturday, a top defence source told AFP, before protesters gathered to demand his resignation stormed the compound.

"The president was escorted to safety," the source said, adding that troops fired in the air to prevent angry crowds from overrunning the President's Palace.

Sirasa TV, a private broadcaster, showed crowds entering the once tightly-guarded residence.

Sri Lanka has suffered through months of food and fuel shortages, lengthy blackouts and galloping inflation after running out of foreign currency to import vital goods.

Huge crowds had poured into the capital for the demonstration, the latest expression of unrest sparked by the island nation's unprecedented economic crisis. Police had withdrawn a curfew order issued on Friday after opposition parties, rights activists and the bar association threatened to sue the police chief.—AFP

Angola's ex-president Dos Santos dies in Spain

JOSE Eduardo Dos Santos, who ruled Angola for with an iron fist for 38 years, died Friday at a hospital in Barcelona after suffering cardiac arrest, the government said.

With "great pain and consternation" the Luanda government posted on Facebook confirmation of the Dos Santos' death at 11:10 am (1010 GMT). He was 79. "(The government) presents its deepest feelings of sorrow to the bereaved family," the statement read, describing

the former leader as a "statesman of great historical stature" who led the country through very difficult times.

Angolan President Joao Lourenco, who is seeking re-election in August, declared five days of national mourning, starting on Saturday, and set-up a government commission to organize funerals. A presidential decree ordered flags to be flown at half-staff and the cancellation of "all shows and political demonstrations".—AFP

Japan mourns as body of assassinated PM Abe returns to Tokyo



A car carrying the body of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe arrives at his home in Tokyo's Shibuya ward on 9 July 2022, a day after he was shot dead in Nara, western Japan, while delivering a stump speech for the 10 July House of Councillors election. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN on 9 July mourns the assassination of former prime minister Shinzo Abe, whose body was moved to Tokyo from

the western town where he was gunned down at close range on the campaign trail. The murder of Japan's best-

known politician rattled the country and sent shockwaves around the world, particularly given the nation's low levels of vi-

olent crime and strict gun laws.

Meanwhile, Japanese police on Saturday continued their efforts to clarify the motive of the man who shot dead former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe the previous day.

The police have quoted Tetsuya Yamagami, 41, as saying he had a grudge against a "specific organization" -- possibly a religious group -- that he believed was linked to Abe.

He has denied he committed the crime because he was opposed to Abe's political belief, according to the police.

He told police that he initially planned to attack a leader of a religious group, investigative sources said Saturday.

He initially planned to attack a leader of a religious group that he believed caused his mother to become bankrupted through donations, investigative sources said.

Yamagami has also said he had a grudge against Abe, believing he had promoted the

group in Japan, the sources said.

Abe died Friday after being shot from behind during a stump speech near a train station in the western prefecture of Nara. Yamagami was arrested at the scene where he was wielding a homemade gun.

Abe died Friday after being shot from behind during a stump speech near a train station in the western prefecture of Nara. Yamagami was arrested at the scene where he was wielding a homemade gun.

The police searched his home Friday, finding items that are believed to be explosives and homemade guns, they said.

Yamagami, now unemployed, was working at a manufacturer in the Kansai region from around the autumn of 2020, but he quit in May this year, according to a staffing agency employee. He was previously a member of the Maritime Self-Defence Force for about three years through August 2005.—Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russian navy receives 1st submarine carrying nuclear-powered drones

THE Russian navy on Friday received the first submarine Belgorod which is designed to carry Poseidon nuclear-powered underwater drones.

The submarine opens new opportunities for Russia to implement various scientific research tasks and conduct rescue operations in remote areas of the oceans, Nikolay Yevmenov, commander-in-chief of the Navy, said at a ceremony.—Xinhua

Upper house election campaign nears end as Abe's death shocks Japan

CANDIDATES are making their final appeals Saturday across Japan for the House of Councillors election, gripped by the death of Shinzo Abe, a former prime minister who was shot during a campaign speech a day earlier.

Under tight security, major

political leaders across party lines spoke of their resolve not to succumb to any act of violence intended to suppress freedom of speech, rallying support from voters who go to the polls Sunday.

Abe, the longest-serving Japanese prime minister, was

fatally shot during his stump speech in Nara, western Japan. The shooting sent shockwaves through the Liberal Democratic Party, to which he belonged, political circles, business leaders and ordinary citizens Friday, as 18 days of campaigning neared its end.—Kyodo

G20 foreign ministers call for urgency to strengthen multilateralism, ensure food supply chain

THE Group of 20 (G20) foreign ministers on Friday called on the urgency to strengthen multiculturalism and ensure that the global food supply chain is restored.

Holding the G20 rotating presidency, Indonesia hosted the two-day foreign ministers' meeting, which served as a forum to discuss global recovery efforts, in the resort island of Bali. Indonesian Foreign Minis-

ter Retno Marsudi said at a press conference after the meeting that participants agreed that multiculturalism remains the best way to resolve global challenges and there is an urgent need to strengthen multiculturalism.

Political will and global collaboration are critical to ensure multilateralism delivers, she said, adding that multilateralism benefits all countries. Indonesia's top

diplomat said all participants were concerned about soaring prices of food and energy, and reiterated that the current crisis, including issues related to their accessibility, affordability, and sustainability, will continue to hinder global recovery. She said developing countries will be the most affected, particularly low-income countries and small island developing countries.—Xinhua



Members of the G20 have expressed concerns about soaring global food and energy prices triggered by the war between Russia and Ukraine. **PHOTO: XINHUA**



Sports clubs no longer a family affair



Time was when sports teams and franchises were largely family enterprises but now it is consortiums like the one headed by Todd Boehly which bought Chelsea who are dominant despite a downturn in the global economy. **PHOTO: JUSTIN TALLIS /AFP**

TIME was when sports teams and franchises were largely family enterprises, but now it is investment funds and consortiums buying them despite a downturn in the global economy.

In May, Todd Boehly became the latest American billionaire to buy a Premier League club when he headed

up a consortium to seal a £4.25 billion (\$5.3 billion) purchase of Chelsea.

California investment group Clearlake will be Chelsea's majority shareholder as part of the consortium, with Boehly becoming controlling owner after Russian Roman Abramovich put the outfit up for sale.

In doing so the Los Angeles Dodgers co-owner saw off 11 other bidders illustrating the Premier League's global brand is a key driver as it provides the opportunity to benefit from significant broadcast revenues and merchandising.

"It's the highest-quality play, it's the best players," Boehly told Bloomberg in 2019. "You also have a media market that's just developing."

Some football financial analysts believe leading Premier League clubs could be worth more than £10 billion within a decade.

Hence the growing number of financial consortiums eager to grab themselves a piece of the action but not just in the English top-flight.

"You are seeing more money coming into sport from institutional investors," said David Gandler, co-founder and director general of American streaming television service fuboTV.— AFP

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

- (a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.
- (b) To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
- (c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

- (a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
- (b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.
- (c) To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

Spain, Germany start Euro 2022 in style

SPAIN rebounded from the loss of star midfielder Alexia Putellas by beating Finland 4-1, as Germany also got their Euro 2022 campaign off to a flying start with a 4-0 win over Denmark on Friday.

La Roja had been pre-tournament favourites until the cruciate ligament injury to reigning female Ballon d'Or winner Putellas in training on Tuesday.

However, Jorge Vilda's side showed why they are still contenders to win a first major women's tournament despite falling behind inside a minute to Linda Sallstrom's strike.

Goals from Irene Paredes, Aitana Bonmati, Lucia Garcia and Mariona Caldentey extended Spain's unbeaten run stretching back to March 2020.

Walking with crutches and decked out in a Spain shirt, Putellas was in attendance to offer encouragement to her teammates.—AFP

Myanmar beats Cambodia 3-0 in AFF Women's Championship



Myanmar team Captain Khin Marla Tun (red) shows football tricks amidst the Cambodian players during the second group match of AFF Women's Championship in the Philippines on 9 July, 2022. **PHOTO: MFF**

MYANMAR Women's National Football Team beat the Cambodian team 3-0 in the second match of the ASEAN Women's Championship in the Philippines yesterday.

With the win, Myanmar has a better chance of reaching the

semi-finals. The Cambodian team has only competed in international competitions for a few years but was pleased with conceding just three goals to big teams like Viet Nam and Myanmar.

Myanmar team line-up includes goalkeeper Myo Mya Mya

Nyein, Khin Than Wai, Phyu Phyu Win, Naw Htet Htet Wai, Nant Zu Zu Htet, Khin Myo Win, Khin Moh Moh Tun, Lin Myint Mho, Khin Marla Tun, July Kyaw and Myat Noe Khin. The Myanmar team played attacking from the beginning of the match and the

Cambodian team played defensively to reduce the goals.

Team Myanmar struggled to score and only got one goal in the first half as the Cambodian team blocked the defence line.

The opening goal for the Myanmar team was scored by team captain Khin Marla Tun in the 33rd minute. The Myanmar team scored only one goal in the first half, but in the second half, the players changed and the attack increased. Myat Noe Khin scored the second goal in the 60th minute. After the second goal, the Myanmar team controlled the match and Khin Moe Wai scored the third goal in the 86th minute.

In the other Group B match, Viet Nam beat Laos 5-0.

After the second match, Myanmar and Viet Nam earned six points each. From the three games, Laos got four points and Cambodia took one point. Timor-Leste has no point with all losses. Myanmar will take on Laos in the third group match on 11 July. — Ko Nyi Lay/ GNLM